

Plymouth Banner.

WM. J. BURNS, Editor & Proprietor.

PLYMOUTH, IND.

Thursday Morning, Dec. 13, 1855.

Advertisements to insure insertion, must be handed in by Tuesday preceding the day of publication.

Trouble in Kansas.—Our readers will be deeply interested in the Kansas news which appears in the Banner this week. We shall most anxiously await the arrival of the President's message, for a reliable explanation of the present position of the Administration upon this subject. We shall hope for the best, however.

The Difficulties in Kansas.
LATEST DISPATCH.
The accounts of the difficulties in Kansas, all conflicting as they are, must be received with caution. The National Intelligencer suggests, with obvious good sense, that "there are three causes for the highly colored pictures of violence; the Congress of the United States is in session; the Legislature of Missouri has a Senatorial election on hand; and the free State constitution of Kansas, is to be voted upon on the 15th of December." Doubtless to these coincidences may be attributed in a large degree the troubles as well as the exaggerated statements that come to us respecting them.

By the article which we publish from the Washington Union it will be seen that the President has not given orders for the employment of United States troops in Kansas.

How far people of Kansas may be justified in resisting, by force, the disgraceful laws enacted by the pseudo legislature of the Territory, we will not undertake to say. That legislature having been chosen by armed invaders from Missouri, it is not strange that bona fide settlers of the Territory should feel like revolting at some of its oppressive decrees.

It is astonishing how this whole Kansas business has been bungled, by Reeder and Shannon. —*Det. Free Press.*

Important Decision.

An opinion was pronounced by the Supreme Court yesterday in a case growing out of a contest between the clerk elect and the former clerk of the Elkhart Circuit Court, as to the tenure of the old incumbent of the new Constitution. Coffin, the former clerk, insisted that he had a right to hold for the full term of seven years, and Norton, the new officer, filed against him in the DeKalb Circuit Court, an information in the nature of a quo warranto, on which the Circuit Court rendered a judgment of ouster and that Norton be inducted into office. The case being appealed, the Supreme Court affirmed the judgment below, on the general principle that the people have the unquestionable right by constitutional provisions to change the length of the terms of their officers, and also that the old constitution specially reserves the right to make such changes. J. Morrison, attorney for Coffin; R. Lowry, attorney for Norton. —*Sentinel of Saturday.*

This decision of the Supreme Court very clearly settles the point, that an election to office is not a contract. When a contract, parties must be equally bound according to stipulations, and an officer elected could not resign the post when it suited his convenience to do so.

Congressional.
The House had not effected an organization to Monday morning last. The 33d and last ballot on Saturday, was for Richardson; 73; Banks, 100; Fuller, 30; scattering, 19.

At the close Mr. Campbell announced that there would be an anti-Nebraska meeting in the Hall this evening. He had withdrawn his name on the 23d ballot.

Mr. Banks who receives the highest number of votes now, although supported as a Republican candidate, announced about the commencement of the balloting, that he was favorable to the reception of Kansas into the Union with or without slavery.

AUDITOR OF STATE.—J. J. Bingham of Lafayette, is named by some of our contemporaries as a suitable person for the nomination by the approaching Democratic Convention, for State Auditor. This same J. J. Bingham abandoned the Democratic party in 1848, and fused with the Van Buren crowd, and zealously supported him for the Presidency, against as good a man as Gen. Cass.

We can't see any difference between fusing then and fusing now.

State Sentinel.—The State Sentinel which has been so faithfully and ably conducted for a few months past by Col. J. C. Walker and C. W. Cotton, has passed into the hands of Messrs. Spenn and Norman, the latter of whom has for several years past conducted the New Albany Ledger, with much credit to himself and honor to the fraternity. We have ever eagerly sought for and welcomed both papers to our table.

MILTON GAZO, of the New Albany Tribune is nominated by the Indianapolis Republican as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the Know Nothing ticket.

He is the very man for the race, as he could not avoid proving faithful to the principles of such an organization by instinct, and would begin the race a know nothing, and leave it a get-nothing.

GOODY for January has come to hand and is the most splendid specimen of an American Magazine we have ever seen.

ANOTHER FLOOD AT TOLEDO.—It will be remembered that a short time since the bank of the canal at Toledo broke, covering that part of the city known as the "flat," and creating great distress among the numerous poor families who lived there. The bank was repaired during the late wet weather in an insecure manner, and consequently broke a few days ago, at the same place, driving the inhabitants again from their homes.

A Puff for Colfax.
Some one, who signs himself "Veritas," writes from Westville to the Laporte Union an extensive "puff" of the Hon. Schuyler Colfax, the distinguished (1700 majority) Congressman from the Ninth District. Mr. "Veritas" (whom we presume selected this cognomen for the same reason that a very black negro likes to be called "Mr. White") complains bitterly of the assaults of the State Sentinel, New Albany Ledger and Plymouth Banner upon Mr. Colfax. He winds up his column of nonsense thus:

Though young, he (Colfax) is not without great experience in legislation, and will prove equal to any emergency that he may be called to pass through. While the names of Norman, Burns, and J. C. Walker, are lost in eternal forgetfulness, S. Colfax's will shine out in brilliant effulgence and splendor, as a monument of honor, integrity, and wisdom.

Some people have queer notions of what constitutes "honor, integrity and wisdom." We suppose "Veritas" considers it a model specimen of "honor" in a man who would have the world consider him great, to deny publicly his connection with the dark lantern fraternity at the very moment when he was fresh from one of their dens, and when their oaths were still warm upon his lips.

We may consider it especially honorable to accept from the State K. N. Council, and even while attending upon its daily sittings write back to his duped constituents that he was at Philadelphia on other and private business. All this may be evidence of "honor, wisdom and integrity," according to the Laporte writer's idea as to what constitutes these qualities. So far as we are concerned, Mr. Colfax is welcome to all the glory and renown which such conduct will bring to him. If immortality is to be purchased at such a price—at the cost of candor and good faith from man to man—away with it. —*State Sentinel.*

We quote the remarks of the Sentinel for the purpose of stating that we did not see the Union's correspondence, and to add that during his whole life, Schuyler Colfax has served in one, and only one Legislative body—the State Constitutional Convention. What extraordinary "experience in legislation!" He is simply a newspaper made article, and principally superintended the job himself.

The Buffalo Republic says that a very handsome and highly accomplished young lady of that city has lately received a letter from the administrators of her uncle lately deceased, in the island of Jamaica, stating that she is sole heiress to a fortune of \$120,000.

The expense of the last Mexican revolution, which resulted in Santa Anna's abdication, are said to have amounted to \$1,800,000.

For the Banner.

High Taxes.
MR. EDITOR:—I notice in the last Democrat a communication under the above head, accounting "as clear as mud" for the very high taxes imposed upon the people of Marshall county the present year. According to my notions of the trouble, Mr. "D," the reputed author of the article, would probably make a better fist at door-knocking for a circus—or perhaps at collecting taxes—than he does at explaining the cause of their accumulating and increasing. I believe we have as prompt a tax paying community as any other county in the whole State, and far be it from me to even think that they justly owe; but there is no wrong to be attached to our citizens—when manifestly imposed upon—for quietly inquiring the cause.

D., in "singing upon a harp of a thousand strings—spirits of just men made perfect," set out by telling our tax payers that:

"At the beginning of our New Constitution, creating some new offices and abolishing others, it was thought by many that the County expense would be considerably curtailed; but instead, the expenses remain almost the same. It is not the expenses of the current year that make up the aggregate of 'high taxes,' but of former years."

And then proceeds to tell them all about it, and winds up with,

"With the above remarks, I submit this to your readers, hoping some one more familiar with the subject, will endeavor to give us more information, More anon."

Now, Mr. Editor, there is more good sense, and I am satisfied more truth in the last paragraph than in the whole of his communication besides, and in accordance with the request it contains, I will endeavor to give him a little information, if no one else should be able to derive any, and although it may have been long since I attempted to scribble for the papers, I think I can come nearer the mark than he has.

The intimation in the first extract about the new Constitution, is silly enough to make "just men made perfect" laugh outright. Our debt has almost entirely been incurred since the beginning of the new constitution, and under precisely the same kind of officers as at present, and though he should happen to be the greatest ass of the number, he should know that much at least. But it is probably as he says:—"There are probably not one fourth of the tax payers of our county that have seen the exhibit of expenditures, &c., and that he is one of them."

Well, sir, I wish to give him a touch at them—all, too, this side of the begin-

ning of the new Constitution. See the Auditor's report in June 1854, and a little insight may be had into the cause of our indebtedness, and our present heavy taxes. The Board of Commissioners sold the poor farm, lying scarcely two miles distant from the county seat, to the county Treasurer, Mr. Evans, for \$1,338, and received in part pay \$950.00 in the stock of the Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company, which could not, probably, this day be sold for 20 cents on the dollar. At that date the county was but \$2,991.24 in debt.

Now, sir, turn to the Auditor's report in June 1855, and you will discover that the Commissioners purchased of A. L. Wheeler a lot of land totally unimproved, some eight or nine miles from town, and totally unsuitable, for which they paid the nice little sum of \$1,800.00!—in what—their Railroad stock? No, sir. That was too good to be used for such purposes. Now for some of the consequences—our farm was available and the other not. In the report of 1854 the cost of keeping the poor was but \$388.18. In 1855 \$645.16, nearly double.

With this kind of dickerer, we find the county in debt, in 1855 a little over \$2,991.24. It is now \$5,756.40.

It is not my object to attach blame to any one. I am giving a simple statement of facts, such as Mr. D. cannot controvert, and will now recapitulate a little, and let him continue to "sing on a harp of a thousand strings—spirits of just men made perfect." I suppose that's what he means by "more anon." Originally, or in 1854—all since the beginning of the new Constitution, the account stands as follows:

In 1855 we owned farm,	\$1,800 00
Deduct for poor	645 16

We have left	\$1,154 84
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We also have \$950.00 R. R. stock at 20 per cent.	\$190 00
Cash for poor farm, when sold	388 00

Total	\$1,732 84
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In 1854 we had poor farm	\$1,338 00
Deduct for poor	388 18

Left	\$949 82
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Add now in debt for land	1,800 00
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Total	\$2,749 82
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Deduct 1855	1,732 84
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Lost by the dicker.	\$1,016 98
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Nearly one half of the whole amount that we owe this year over 1854, and not one farthing have we received in return. I call it dicker, Mr. Editor, instead of swindle, as it may be considered a mild term; but the people have a right to grumble.

Now, sir, what is our land really worth? Here is a question that will stagger those unacquainted with it. There is probably not a single man in the county, who knows anything about it, who would value it at over \$1000. Add the loss of \$800 on it to the above loss, and we have the neat little sum of \$1,816.98, and our available poor farm gone. Is this all, Mr. D?

We have to foot the bill to pay the interest on every dollar of the orders issued to pay for the land. Our expense for the poor over what it was when we had a farm available, is \$256.98, and more besides, that is to be annually entailed upon our citizens, and not a dollar's benefit can they derive from it.

Oh, what a beautiful explanation D. makes of it. Let him at once admit that it is wrong that the people's pockets should be thus picked, and that they have a right to inquire the cause. I intend to do it, so long as I can have the use of newspaper columns, and when denied them, I can use other printed matter, and whoever may be really injured by it, can very easily find redress by learning the real name of a TAX PAYER.

A NEW FOL.—Some one of our exchange advertisers as lost, a small Silver Watch, and states that the finder will be liberally rewarded by leaving it at the office of I. C. A. Hole Esq.

Death of Judge Sample.

We regret, most painfully, to announce the decease of SAMUEL C. SAMPLE, at his residence in this place on Sunday evening, the 2d inst. While attending the meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Bank of Indiana, at Indianapolis on July last, to which he was a Delegate from the branch at this place, he was attacked with bloody flux, and he returned home with disease implanted in his system which has at last carried him to his long home. Nearly ever since his return he has been confined to his bed, sinking under a gradual decline, and his death has been almost momentarily feared and expected, now that it has come, it strikes our ears with a startling and painful surprise and with the mournful feelings of an irreparable loss.

Judge Sample was one of our oldest citizens, respected and beloved by all. As a Lawyer, he was able, judicious and reliable; as a Judge, correct, upright and impartial; as a Member of Congress, unswervingly faithful to the interest of his constituents; and in all his business transactions, whether in a public or private capacity, he has ever exhibited the most sterling integrity, totally uninfluenced by the least unworthy or selfish motives. As a citizen, he has been enterprising and valuable; as a friend and neighbor, open-hearted, sociable, generous and accommodating; as a husband, a father, and a Christian, he was all that is worthy of emulation;—and thus, after a life without reproach, passed in the most valuable services in public and in private, Judge Sample passes to his grave, leaving his memory to be regarded with love and veneration, not only by relatives and personal friends, but by all who have known and can appreciate one of the noblest works of God.

South Bend Register.

COL. FREMONT.—J. C. Fremont has taken a house in this city, for the accommodation of himself and family during the winter, that he may enjoy greater facilities in preparing and publishing the results of his Pacific Railway expeditions, which will be ready for the press before the adjournment of Congress.

N. Y. Jour. Com.

The War in Kansas.

VERY INTERESTING DETAILS. Great Excitement.

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., Dec. 3.
We have just received reliable intelligence from Kansas Territory, which increased the excitement already existing here. You have been apprised of the origin of the difficulty—that of the arrest of a prisoner in the hands of the sheriff, by a party of fifteen to twenty of the citizens of Lawrence and vicinity, and their refusal to deliver any of the parties concerned in the mob and outrage up to any of the officers of the Territory unless it be the Governor, or to those of the General Government. This determination is strengthened by the course pursued by Col. Lane, and also by the editor of the paper at Lawrence, and a few other men of a similar stripe, who are continually making harangues to the people, and urging them to make preparations for a fight.

On Saturday night Col. Lane delivered a speech of this character, which was received with the greatest demonstrations of enthusiasm. Governor Shannon, seeing such a state of things existing, very properly ordered out the militia of the Territory, who did not respond very cordially to his wishes. Many of the citizens of the border counties of Missouri, willing to aid in quelling the disturbance, offered their assistance, and are now in readiness to go to the scene of difficulty at a moment's warning. Many have already gone from Lafayette, and the adjoining counties, well prepared for the emergency.

The Governor's party were from 250 to 300 men, are at Franklin, a few miles distant, awaiting a greater force.

Reports have reached us that there are 1000 men in Lawrence, organized and ready for resistance, all armed with rifles, and that they were entrencing themselves as rapidly as they possibly can.

From another source we learn that the better men in Lawrence say that they are willing to give up all concerned in the affair, if the legal authorities persons seek it; otherwise they will resist to desperation. Governor Shannon in response says: "Why not deliver them to the sheriff or United States Marshal, who have already demanded them?" Trouble will no doubt result from it, as much excitement exists on both sides.

A meeting is now being held in Kansas to see if some measures cannot be adopted to terminate the matter peacefully, if possible, but forcibly if necessary.

On Saturday Gov. Shannon applied to President Pierce by telegraph, for assistance from the United States troops at Fort Riley and Leavenworth, and until such aid is granted nothing will be done, unless the excitement of the parties concerned will bring on the crisis. If so, many valuable lives will be lost.

All that transpires further I will endeavor to keep you promptly advised.

The Very Latest.

LANE BIDS DEFIANCE.

INDEPENDENCE, Dec. 2. P. M.
There is great excitement all through this upper country, and overwhelming numbers are pouring from every direction in the territory to sustain the law.

Col Lane is entrencing himself and throwing up breastworks. He is also burning beacon lights, which can be seen twenty-five miles from Lawrence, and bids defiance.

St. Louis, Dec. 2.
Accounts from Kansas states that Governor Shannon has telegraphed the President the condition of affairs, and says that 100 armed men arrived in Lawrence; rescued a prisoner from the Sheriff of Douglas county, burned houses and destroyed property. He asks the President to order out the troops at Fort Leavenworth to aid in the execution of the law.

Dispatches to day from Weston have arrived, and brings startling news from Atchinson. The free State officers had taken possession of important papers at that place.

An attack upon Atchinson was expected, and a request had been sent to Weston for 50 armed men to aid in repelling it.

The New York Tribune has some further details under date of December 5, which is as follows.

The Kansas Free State papers give the following account of the difficulties in the Territory: A young man named Dow, 22 years of age, while at a blacksmith shop where several border ruffians had congregated, was deliberately shot by one Coleman. An attempt was made to arrest the murderer, but through the assistance of his abettors he escaped to Missouri.

A meeting of citizens held on the spot where the affair occurred, to inquire into the case, pronounced the act a cold-blooded murder on the part of Coleman, and charged four men, named Hagus, Bulkley, Moody and Wagner with being accessories. A series of resolutions was passed, and a committee appointed to investigate still further, to search out the offenders, and to devise means to bring them to justice. Sheriff Jones arrested Bronson, at whose house Drew lived, for the purpose of having him give security to keep the peace, but while proceeding to Leocompton, Bronson was rescued by a party of his neighbors. Jones sent to Pawnee, Missouri, for aid, declaring that the Governor of Missouri had assured him the assistance of 10,000 men if required.

Important From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.

The Union of this morning contains the correspondence by Telegraph between the President and Gov. Shannon of Kansas. The despatch of the latter says: "I desire to call upon the U. S. forces at Fort Leavenworth, in order to preserve the peace of the Territory, to protect the Sheriff of Douglas county, and to enable him to execute the legal process in his hands. If the laws are not executed, civil war is inevitable. An armed force of one thousand men, with all the implements of war, it is said, are at Fort Leavenworth; they rescued the prisoner from the Sheriff, burned a number of houses, and threatened the lives of the citizens. Immediate assistance is required; this is the only way to prevent bloodshed. Particulars by mail.

The President replied as follows: "All the power vested in the Executive will be exerted to preserve order and enforce the laws. On the receipt of your letter, the preliminary measures necessary to be taken before calling out the troops will be promptly executed and you will then be fully advised."

It has just been ascertained beyond the possibility of a doubt, that a despatch has been received from Mr. Buchanan relative to the Crampton difficulty, the tenor of which is, that the British Government, in a courteous but positive manner, decline giving such explanations as were demanded by our Government, regarding the alleged violations of our neutrality laws by British agents. This aspect of affairs imposes on the American Government very delicate obligations, and will require all its wisdom to extricate itself from the present dilemma.

The governments of San Salvador,

It is thought there would be a fight before matters were settled. No U. States troops had been ordered out.

Still Later.—The pro Slavery party encamped on Wakarusa River, and last night by order of the Governor, they arrested Gen. Pomeroy, who was on his way to Kansas city with important despatches from the east. Threats have been made to destroy the American Hotel at Kansas, on the supposition that it was owned by the Emigrant Aid Society. The mass of the citizens pledged themselves to defend and prevent its destruction. Four or five hundred men, several pieces of artillery, and probably a thousand muskets, passed through Independence yesterday from the border counties of Missouri to aid the Sheriff of Douglas county in maintaining order.

ARRIVAL OF THE ST. LOUIS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.
The steamer St. Louis from Havre and Southampton, arrived today and brings London dates to the 21st ult. The Africa arrived out on the 18th. The papers furnish the following interesting items not contained in our Halifax dispatch.

Three magazines belonging to the French Artillery, blew up near Inkermann, killing 70 soldiers and two officers, and wounding 100 soldiers and ten officers.

A large quantity of Russian grain has been destroyed along the Greseklerian road.

A terribly destructive fire occurred in Paris by which the government bakery was consumed. It contained 28,000 quintals of corn and an equal quantity of flour and biscuits.

The ship America wrecked near Cabrit, to which was sold by the underwriters had been got off by the purchasers. The grain destroyed on the coast near Greseklerian was destroyed by an allied flotilla sent for that purpose.

The grain was intended for the army in the Crimea, and was packed in six tiers which extended along the coast for two miles.

The Car has dismissed Price Menschikoff, as Chief of his Staff, and appointed Gen. Olenberg in his stead.

Advices from Kars state that General Mouravieff overcome by his defeat before Kars, had become insane, and Gen. Bobuloff had been summoned to assume the command.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.

HALIFAX, Dec. 5.

The America arrived here this A. M. From the Crimea it is reported that the Allies have determined upon a grand bombardment of the Russian position on the north side of Sevastopol.

The King of Sardinia was in Paris, and a cordial reception was being extended to him.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The Liverpool cotton market was dull, and a general decline had taken place upon the quotations advised per the Atlantic, reaching as high in some cases as 2d per pound. The week's business was restricted to 35,000 bales. Nearly all was taken by the trade and exporters.

In breadstuffs, a limited business was transacted, and prices had undergone a slight decline, say to the extent of about 2d on wheat and 6d on flour and corn.

In provisions, no change of moment had occurred. The market closed steady.

In the London money market there was continued stringency, but notwithstanding this drawback, the closing quotations for consols were 88½ to 88½, an advance of nearly 1 per cent upon the rates current at the departure of the last steamer.

SECOND DISPATCH.

The America's dates from Liverpool are to Saturday, November 24th, one week later than those received by the Atlantic. The America will be due at Boston about noon on Thursday.

The main feature of the news is a report that Gen. Canroport had concluded a treaty of alliance between Sweden and the Western Powers, to take effect both by land and by sea, in the spring. The rumor, however, is believed to be premature.

Peace rumors were quite abundant, and amongst others, it was asserted that the Car had given his assent to Prussia's informing the Western powers that he is willing to treat for peace. All the reports, however, lack confirmation, and are considered as doubtful.

In active hostilities, nothing has occurred since the last advices, either in the Crimea, southern Russia, or Asia.

Important From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.

The Union of this morning contains the correspondence by Telegraph between the President and Gov. Shannon of Kansas. The despatch of the latter says:

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The governments of San Salvador,

Honduras and Costa Rica, have protested to this Government against the recognition of Mr. Wheeler, the United States Minister of the present Nicaraguan Government. The Government of San Salvador predicts that the present order of things in Nicaragua will not long continue, for reasons stated, and declare their intention to exterminate all foreign invaders who may invade their soil.

The Compromises of the Constitution.

The word compromise is a word which ought to be expunged from our political vocabulary. The constant application of it to political measures leads to false and dangerous ideas in regard to our government. But it is particularly improper in its application to the Constitution, and tends to foster the idea that the Constitution is a mere shifting, unsettled and unstable thing, under which any kind of bargain may be made, and any sort of arrangements entered into. There is no such thing as compromise in the Constitution. That instrument is a sacred compact between the sovereign States—and is the supreme law of the land. True it is that rival interest and sectional prejudices embarrassed the action of the convention which framed the Constitution. They had to be adjusted and harmonized before it could be perfected. A spirit of compromise and conciliation happily presided in the convention, or nothing worthy the name of Constitution could have been agreed upon. Being formed, its provisions are not compromises, but laws—laws binding upon all, and which cannot be made the subjects of common traffic.

It is to be lamented that the word compromise was ever introduced into American politics. It was tended to foster the impression that we have not fixed, settled system, that our organic law is radically defective, and that, in consequence thereof, we are compelled to resort to shifts, contrivances and bargains in regard to the most important measure of Government.—*Wash. Sentinel.*

From Washington.

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The Indian War in Oregon.

We stop the press to say that, by Wells, Fargo & Co's Express, we learn that the citizens and miners of Jackson county have taken the field. They have already killed one hundred and six Indians. They spare neither age nor sex, but are determined to make a clean sweep as they go. They say that they want no assistance or interference from government officers; but that they are determined to treat all protectors or sympathizers with the Indians as common foes.

Major Lupton, member elect to the legislature from Jackson county, was killed by the Indians. Miss Pellet escaped a few minutes before Wagoner's house was attacked. Great excitement exists against the regulators and others who sheltered and protected the Indians.

Oregonian, Oct. 20.

WESTON, Mo., Dec. 4.

A message was received here yesterday evening from T. T. Abel, Esq., at Atchinson, Kansas Territory, stating that one of the leaders of the Kansas legion had been arrested by some of the citizens, and when he found that he was taken he attempted to destroy some papers he had with him by chewing and swallowing them. He was, however, prevented from doing it, and upon examination, the papers were discovered to contain the secrets of the "Midnight Order."

Atchinson was to be burned down, and Pat Laughlin, who exposed the secret abolition organization, was to be murdered. The citizens of Atchinson had mostly left that place to join Governor Thomas' forces at Leocompton, and there being no arms left in the place, they desired a company of armed men from Weston to help them repulse any attack that might be made by the abolitionists on the town. A company of our citizens, therefore prepared themselves and left last night at nine o'clock for Atchinson.

These occurrences are producing a dreadful state of excitement in our midst. Groups of men are constantly watching about the streets to hear the latest news. Should these disturbances increase, our business transactions in all this section of the State must necessarily be seriously checked.—*Louisville Courier, Dec. 5th.*

FREE TRADE WITH CANADA.—A letter appears in the Canadian papers from the Hon. Hamilton Merritt, of Canada, on the subject of extending the present system of Canadian reciprocity to manufactures, and abolishing the Custom House in the interior, both on the Canadian and United States sides.

The wife of Governor Wright, died at the residence of her father in Kentucky on the 4th inst.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 3.

A most destructive conflagration occurred here this morning about 1 o'clock. The magnificent steamers George Collier and Mayflower, and the wharf-boat Mary Hunt are a total loss.

The officers of the boats were all saved, but the books and papers of the boats, and the baggage of the passengers were all destroyed.

It is supposed that not less than ten or twelve lives were lost, including two cabin boys on the George Collier. The total loss is estimated at \$250,000. There was an insurance on the boats to the extent of \$55,000.

The fire originated on the George Collier, which had just arrived from New Orleans. Just as she touched the land, she was discovered to be on fire.

The Mayflower was nearly new, and one of the most beautiful boats on the Mississippi river